Daily Report

Latin America

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'Text' of Armies Conference Agreement No 15

PY2809155588 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Sep 88 p A-8

["Text" of Agreement No 15 reportedly signed by the U.S. and Latin American military commanders at the Conference of the Armies of the Americas (CEA), held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 16 to 20 November 1987]

[Text] "1. Subject: Political and strategic position of the Armies of the Americas within the CEA framework in view of the need to make differences in national characteristics and strength compatible with the spirit of continental integration and solidarity.

"2. Objective: An adequate degree of continental security.

"3. Scope: The Armies of the Americas believe that:

"a. The MCI [International Communist Movement] continues to be the common and main threat to all the countries of the Americas; therefore, it must be fought as such through unified, common procedures by all the Armies of the Americas;

"b. In face of the MCI threat the security and defense of the American Continent requires that measures in other fields of power, rather than strictly military measures, be considered;

"c. The needs and particular characteristics of each country will allow the Armies to actively participate in their development. If this is the case, the participation of the Armies in the development of their countries must not be permanent;

"d. The developed countries have the responsibility of supporting the rest of the countries of the Americas, as reliable allies in the struggle against the MCI, in order to create favorable conditions to make the American Continent an obstacle to the development of communism in the world.

"4. Resolution.

"In view of the fact that:

"a. The objective of the CEA—basically concerned about the defense of the American Continent from MCI aggression—has remained unchanged for 28 years;

"b. The degree of security in each country of the continent depends on the coordinated strategic actions of the following four forms of power: political, economic, psychosocial, and military;

"c. There must be a pan-American awareness of the need to strengthen integration and the continental spirit of solidarity;

"d. The Armies of the Americas, in keeping with their affinities, will be able to specifically contribute to a greater and more effective closeness among the countries of the continent;

"e. Without any doubt the CEA is the appropriate forum for evaluating the studies and debates, taking into account the fact that, with the vision this problem demands, it offers a qualitative contribution for channeling the solutions related to the security of the American Continent.

"Therefore, it has decided that:

"a. It believes a thorough evaluation of studies that will allow the implementation of a political-strategic policy for the Armies of the Americas is necessary and appropriate, bearing in mind the need to make compatible the individual national requirements and the differences that exist in the political, economic, psychosocial, and military fields within the spirit of continental integration. It is also necessary, in this regard, to take into account an adequate degree of security for the American Continent, with the required scope, and coordinate these actions within the overall framework of the sectors of power: political, economic, psychosocial, and military.

"b. It deems necessary that each Army of the Americas carry out these studies within the framework of the current institutional and legal situation of its respective country and then submit a report to the CEA.

"c. It deems it necessary that the CEA give priority to its treatment and dissemination due to the matter's fundamental importance."

Cuba

Quadripartite Negotiations at 'Critical Stage'

Situation Said 'Tense'

FL2809190088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Information from Brazzaville, capital of the People's Republic of the Congo, indicates that the situation is very tense in the last day of the meetings between Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States on southwestern Africa, since there have only been bilateral meetings. Up to now, the press agencies say that the seventh round of talks have not officially taken place. Early today there was a meeting between the United States and South Africa and one is expected later today between Angola and Cuba which form a joint delegation in these negotiations that began last May in London, Great Britain.

The Cuban delegation told PRENSA LATINA that the negotiations are at a critical point. Recently, the head of the Cuban delegation, Carlos Aldana, said that in this round, South Africa has tried to establish a firm link between the withdrawal of the Cuban forces and the timetable for Namibia's independence. According to a statement in Brazzaville today by Cuban spokesman Alcibiades Hidalgo, the South African position does not correspond, on the one hand, with the principles of New York, which were approved as a basis for these negotiations. On the other hand, according to Hidalgo, it would be truly immoral to put the end of Namibia's colonial occupation, demanded by the entire international community, on the same level as the withdrawal of the Cuban forces, whose presence in Angola has its legal basis in the UN Charter. The only connection between these issues is that South Africa's withdrawal from Namibia should end the direct foreign military threat to Angola, which is the cause for the Cuban troops' presence in that African country.

Hidalgo said that in his view, conditions are right at present for an agreement on the situation in southwestern Africa. This would include the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia. Cuba has explained that its retreat from Angola includes very complex political, logistical, and technical aspects, and that its forces will only be withdrawn in an orderly manner and with the necessary guarantees for their security, befitting an army that has ably fulfilled its duty, added the Cuban spokesman.

The seventh round of talks was scheduled to take place 26-28 September in Brazzaville. So far there have also been talks among Angola, Cuba, the United States, and South Africa in London, Cairo, New York, and Geneva.

Linkage Causes Delay

FL2809210988 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1937 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Commentary by Fernando Delgado Ortega]

[Text] The seventh round of quadripartite negotiations on southwestern Africa being held in Brazzaville, capital of the People's Republic of the Congo, has not started and this is its last day. The dialogue which began last Monday has only been held at a bilateral levels between Angola and Cuba and the United States and South Africa. The reason for the delay of the quadripartite negotiations is the unexpected and immoral attitude adopted by South Africa's apartheid regime which has revived once more its so-called linkage policy tying Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola.

The position taken today by South Africa in the negotiations, in addition to being immoral, is totally unacceptable to the international community. The world, grouped in the United Nations, is struggling for the end of colonialism and neocolonialism and for decades has denounced the unjust occupation of the Namibian territory. On the other hand, the friendly Cubans arrived in Angola at the express request of that country's government to stop South African attacks. The wording of the UN Charter recognizes this Cuban-Angolan right.

The 4-way talks began in London in the beginning of May. Later the capitals of Egypt, New York, Geneva, and now in its last rounds, Brazzaville, have been the stages of the latest contacts. This time we would like to refer especially to the New York quadripartite talks where the basic principles of the current meeting were approved. The withdrawal of South African troops from Angola and Namibia was established during that round as the first step toward the fulfillment of the timetable which would result in the total and complete withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

When the talks began in London 4 months ago, we thought that the establishment of this negotiated solution was one of the most important current events. In the first commentary we also asked ourselves: Does this mean that South Africa has abandoned its expansionist and aggressive policy? We responded that such a rationale would be very simplistic and far from reality. Now the South African position confirms this way of thinking.

During the seventh meeting, when South Africa is supposed to withdraw from Namibia on 1 November so that free elections can be held in the territory, the racist regime brings up again the link of Cuban troops in Angola with its withdrawal from Namibia.

After 4 months of dialogue, when everything appeared to indicate that South Africa would end its unjust occupation in Namibia, the apartheid regime brings up again the unacceptable thesis of linking the UN resolution to the

withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. We believe it is good to remind the South African racists that the road toward dialogue was opened by the heroic Angolan, Cuban, and Namibian combatants in southern Angola. It was the response to the South African and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] offensive that made the racists and Americans sit at the negotiating table days after Cubans, Angolans, and Namibians were strongly established along the 15th parallel. It is good for South Africa to remember that Namibia's independence has been urged by the United Nations and it is the objective of many brother countries.

Delegations 'Finally' Meet

FL2909005488 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Report by Irma Caceres from Brazzaville]

[Text] The quadripartite negotiations aimed at finding a solution to the southwest African conflict survived a very difficult stage when the four delegations finally met at the M'Bamou Palace Hotel. This seventh meeting, which began on Monday, should have been held as the previous ones, with constant bilateral dialogue between Angola, Cuba, the United States, and South Africa.

After 3 days of talks, a new perspective appears to have paved the way for the continuation of talks with another meeting scheduled for tomorrow. UN Resolution No 435 on Namibia's independence was approved 10 years ago tomorrow.

The Brazzaville talks have focused primarily on the timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Angolan and Cuban representatives have rejected the South African attempts of establishing a fixed condition for Namibia's independence. This was made public by the head of the South African delegation.

The continuation of this process appears to indicate the willingness of the parties to reach an agreement and extend beyond the dates stated by South Africa the time for the withdrawal of Cuban troops, who are stationed there by an agreement between the two countries.

The meeting will end tomorrow when the four parties will meet again and a document containing the fundamental criteria and principles for a future negotiation will be made public.

National Assembly Leader on Talks in USSR

FL2909030188 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] The Cuban parliamentarian delegation held an exchange of views with their Soviet counterparts at the Kremlin. At the end of the meeting, Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, gave a statement to Ismael Tantaw, our correspondent in Moscow.

[Begin Aguirre recording] We talked about very important things regarding our common struggle and work. We noted the need to strengthen ties even more—they are already strong—between our two parliaments. We discussed fundamental problems of the international situation and of the world, which has many problems despite the considerable progress made in favor of peace. Nevertheless, there are many pending problems which we should continue working on.

We were in complete agreement in the assessment of the international situation. The agreement of our opinions concerning peace policies and favoring the liberation of people still suffering from colonialism became evident once more. We talked extensively on the need for—after the very important steps which have been taken on nuclear arms reductions—the transfer of financial resources for the development of Third World countries. The two parliaments believe in the need to take effective steps aimed at solving the foreign debt problem. This debt is overburdening the Latin American, Asian, and African people today.

We also reviewed the situation in Central America. We agreed with the opinion that as long as the United States keeps its hands in Central America there is no possible solution to the problem. [end recording]

Delegation Visits Georgia

FL2809214588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1949 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] A Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] delegation arrived in Tbilisi and was received today by [name indistinct], chairman of the Presidium of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet. The Soviet leader said he was certain that the visit paid by the Cuban parliamentarians, headed by Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the ANPP, will help to deepen the fraternal and cooperation ties between the USSR and Cuba.

During the friendly dialogue, the visitors were briefed on the fulfillment of the agreements reached at the CPSU 27th Congress and how the restructuring is taking place in Georgia. The Cuban parliamentarians today toured areas of interest in Tbilisi, which is an important industrial and cultural center with a history of 1,500 years. Over 1 million people live in the Georgian capital.

CDR Celebrates Eve of 28th Anniversary

FL2809125288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Over 7 million CDR [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution] members throughout the country awaited the 28th anniversary of the creation of the CDR. In our capital, Armando Acosta Cordero, national CDR coordinator, accompanied by Flora de Maria Montero, vice coordinator of the Sandinist committees, and by

Arsene Bongnessan Ye, secretary general of the Committees of the Revolution of Burkina Faso, toured various CDR units where they spoke with the people.

During the days preceding the anniversary of the massive Cuban organization, over 10,000 CDR members received the 28 September award, tribute was paid to the internationalists, registration of newborns was held, and new CDR members were welcomed; this characterized the night of CDR festivities.

Costa Rican Minister on Bilateral Relations

FL2809151988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Recently, a Cuban television team visited Costa Rica and spoke with Fernando Zumbado, minister of housing, who referred to future contacts between San Jose and Havana.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What do you think of the present contacts, of the certain rapprochement between our two nations?

[Zumbado] I think it is very beneficial. I think sometimes we place barriers among ourselves which are totally unnecessary. I belive that we should not allow ourselves to be influenced sometimes by those who promote the differences among nations, but instead we should seek dialogue and discussion.

I belive Cuba has an imporant role in Latin America; it must be part of the efforts that are carried out in the hemisphere for the promotion of development and peace. Room must be made for Cuba to carry out her role with the necessary freedom. I think Costa Rica has been a country which has overcome differences by talking within our society, and there is no reason why we should not be able to do that in our foreign relations. [end recording]

Haiti

President Avril, 'Major Political Leaders' Meet

FL2809[illegible]788 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creol[illegible]1300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, the president of the new Haitian military regime, yesterday received at the National Palace three of Haiti's major political leaders who make up the Committee for Democratic Accord [CED]: Marc Bazin of the Movement to Establish Democracy in Haiti, MIDH; Louis Dejoie of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party, PAIN; and Gerard Gourgue, of the National Concerted Action Front. They also met with Sergeant Joseph Hebreux, the leader of the noncommissioned officers and enlisted men. [passage omitted]

The new military authorities are also going to receive other political leaders, such as the head of the Haitian Communist Party, Mr Rene Theodore. This constitutes a first in the history of Haiti. [passage omitted]

Ministry Asks for Return of Illegal Weapons

FL2809164888 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Those in illegal possession of firearms have 8 days in which to turn these weapons over to the military district closest to their homes.

The Ministry of Interior and Nationale Defense, anxious to reestablish a climate of peace and security for all, reminds the public in general, and those concerned in particular, that the ownership and possession of firearms is regulated by the decree of 12 January 1988, particularly by Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Consequently, the ministry asks those who are keeping these weapons to please turn the weapons over to the military district nearest their homes. They will be issued a receipt showing the make, serial number, and caliber of the weapon.

Holders of weapons will be granted a period of 8 days after the appearance of this communique in which to comply.

The commanding officers of the military districts will cooperate in the application of this measure and will see to it that the men under their command do not themselves appear at private residences to recover these weapons.

We note that this Ministry of Interior and Nationale Defense decision comes some 2 days after Catholic bishops conference issued a call to disarm the macoutes.

Soldiers Warn of Macoute Deception Attempts

FL2809205088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] We have a press release from the General Headquarters of the Communications Corps, Haitian Armed Forces [FADH], in which the soldiers and noncommissioned officers make a few suggestions to the ad interim FADH commander in chief, Major General Herard Abraham. They say:

Considering that we have decided to eliminate the detectives and macoutes existing under the former regime;

Considering that these detectives can at any time be destructive and that they might use military articles, such as rank insignia, weapons, and military uniforms in order to carry out reprisals—to do destructive things—passing themselves off as forces of order members, and that they might even mistreat the civilian population and even attack members of the FADH;

Considering that we must safeguard our dignity and accomplish the mission entrusted to us by the Constitution of 1987 and apply the principles regulating the conduct of a member of the FADH;

And considering that we must protect the interests of the Haitian people and the security of all citizens;

And in view of the current difficult situation in Haiti, we ask you, ad interim commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces, to give the following instructions to the commanding officers of the Haitian Armed Forces Supply Center, where they sell military articles, to prevent them from selling military articles to just anyone: In order for someone to be able to buy such military articles, he must present his military identification card and show his document of commission, which verifies his rank, before any military articles are sold to him.

We are afraid that these men who were detectives and former tonton macoutes might buy military articles and dress in olive green with a rank insignia on their uniforms and carry out a number of attacks on the civilian population and even against the members of the Armed Forces.

These are the suggestions made to the ad interim commander in chief of the Armed Forces by the soldiers of the General Headquarters of the Communications Corps.

The note is signed by (Felix Petion), corporal, Communications Corps, FADH; and (Jean Lugenie), enlisted man, Communications Corps, FADH.

UPD Submits Political Calendar to Government

FL2809031788 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1100 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] The UPD, which is Rockefeller Guerre's Union of Democratic Patriots, has submitted a political calendar to the new military government. The Haitian people cannot wait another 2 years to exercise their legitimate right to choose their representatives and leaders, says UPD President Rockefeller Guerre in a letter addressed to Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, head of the military government, yesterday.

After drawing a balance sheet of the past 2 years, during which numerous democratic militants have fallen and two presidents have had to flee into exile, Rockefeller Guerre invites everyone concerned, and first and foremost Gen Avril, to avoid a repetition of these events that have turned the nation upside down, explaining that the same causes will always produce the same effects.

The president of the UPD consequently advocates returning to constitutional and democratic order, a return to be made in the following stages, submitted to the chief of state: First, the Constitution of 1987 set aside by the former Namphy government should be put back into effect. The independent Provisional Electoral Council should be reconstituted, as of October, as provided for in the Constitution of 1987, with a view to organizing elections per the following calendar established by the UPD:

March 1989: Elections for Casecs [Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections], municipal councils, and deputies and senators are held.

April 1989: The elected take office.

May 1989: The Constitution of 1987 is revised.

August 1989: Presidential elections are held.

17 September 1989: The elected president begins his duties.

Various other measures were suggested by Rockefeller Guerre before arriving at the proposed calendar. Among these were the elimination of certain useless ranks in the military hierarchy; firing all judges, representatives of the Department of the Public Prosecutor, prefects, communal magistrates, development advisors, and sections chiefs—in short, everyone who actively helped the bloodthirsty Namphy regime. Also, abrogating the expulsion decrees issued against Haitian patriots; releasing political prisoners; assigning Fort Dimanche another purpose; and making public the results of all the investigations undertaken during the past 3 years.

Regarding the enlisted men's demands, the party thinks that a democratically elected civilian government would be in a better position to satisfy them.

According to Mr Guerre, the timetable proposed yesterday by the UPD is aimed at preventing Gen Avril from falling into the same excesses as Gen Namphy, excesses due to the long 2-year transitional period, which the new military government is again suggesting today.

Lastly, the UPD's president entreats Gen Avril not to keep power any longer than 12 months—for the good of the nation and for the general's own good, explains Mr Guerre, who expressed his reservation concerning certain appointments that have been made by the new government, among others in the Protocol Department and at Port-au-Prince City Hall. The UPD says these appointments are shocking.

Groups To Demonstrate In Support of NCO's

FL2809153888 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Six Haitian democratic and union organizations have called for a day of demonstrations tomorrow in Port-au-Prince in solidarity with the noncommissioned officers and enlisted men of the Haitian Army.

This demonstration, say the organizers, seeks to display the unity of the masses and soldiers who today have chosen to be on the side of the majority and have shown this majority's determination to do away with once and for all the lackeys, the Duvalierists, and the macoutes. The organizers warn that this demonstration in favor of democracy and the definitive liberation of the Haitian people will under no pretext be forbidden—not even through a communique from the Ministry of the Interior.

The people's organizations ask the public to respond to this call and invite all sectors of the nation whose position is compatible with that of the Haitian people to come and demonstrate with the Haitian people. This invitation has also been extended to the soldiers, who will participate in the demonstration wearing their uniforms and carrying their weapons, so as to ensure the security of the demonstrators.

This call is signed by: MAD, the anti-macoute and anti-Duvalierist alliance; CATH, the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers; the Dominican-Haitian Cultural Center; the Marcel Numas Revolutionary Committee; Ornadej [National Organization for the Defense of the Young]; and Initiative Committee for Popular Unity.

KID to Participate

FL2809203888 Port-au-Prince Metropole in French 1045 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Another call to demonstrate has been made by the KID, the Confederation of Democratic Unity. The demonstration is to begin at 1000 in front of St Jean Bosco Church in Portail Saint Joseph and is to end in front of the National Palace.

KID believes this is the occasion for all those who would like to see things change in Haiti, both civilians and members of the Armed Forces, to come together and strengthen the struggle of the people's organizations and the soldiers.

Thus, a demonstration of support for the soldiers is scheduled for tomorrow in Port-au-Prince.

Justice Sought for Macoute-Persecuted Citizens

FL2709221188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Msgr Romelus, the bishop of Jeremie, today expressed his displeasure that adversaries of the 17 September coup are intent upon blocking any kind of demonstrations which the population might want to hold.

The bishop denounced the terrible situation in the Grande Anse area following the 17 September movement; more precisely, in Corail, where the director of the chapel in (Patelage), Mercidieu Bernard, was beat up yesterday when the commanding officer of Corail, Lieutenant (Israel), sent a corporal and a section chief to arrest him. Msgr Romelus is asking for justice for everyone who is still to this day being persecuted by the macoutes.

[Begin Romelus recording] On 17 September 1988, the soldiers began a movement for all the Haitian people, so that they could liberate them. However, since that time, in certain places there are still individuals who want to continue to mistreat the people. [passage omitted] The people in Corail are not allowed to show their happiness. Whenever they do, this lieutenant has them arrested. [passage omitted]

We know this is not the only place this has happened. It has happened in other places too. We are asking for justice for these people whom the macoutes are trampling on and preventing from demonstrating. Everywhere that there are people doing this, these people must be rounded up and tried and given what they deserve. This is what we have come to ask.

We know the general president and Sergeant Hebreux say they are a movement; they claim to be a movement for the people's good. We hope it really is a movement for good, and not a bluff [preceding word in English]. If they are not bluffing, they must round up everyone who is persecuting and trampling the population and bring them to trial. That is what we wanted to say. [end recording]

Sergeant Appointed Head of Games Commission

FL2709224388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] A new person was installed at the Supervisory Commission for Games of Chance this morning. Finance Minister Leonce Thelusma installed Presidential Guard Sergeant (Beauchard Frantz Patrick) as president of the commission in place of Abel Jerome.

There were no other changes in this institution. Thus, this commission is now headed by Sergeant (Patrick). Fritz Germain remains treasurer and (M.L. Dejean) remains secretary general of the commission.

St. Lucia

'New Wave of Violent Crime' Said Drug Related

FL2809153888 Bridgetown CANA in English 1448 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Sept 28, CANA—Close to fifty crack policemen from the Special Service Unit (SSU), a U.S.-trained drug and crime enforcement division of the local police force, have been drawn into a massive anticrime crackdown here.

Police Commissioner Cuthbert Phillips went on state radio and called for public assistance for what he said was a "new wave of violent crime", which directly related to the island's active drug trade.

"Since the beginning of the week at least ten pounds of cocaine has been stopped from entereing the island, and everybody knows that when we get criminals on coke, violent crimes will result," commissioner said.

The police were also looking for two men who shot dead a 62-year-old supermarket manager, Arthur Pascal, and seriously wounded Clinton Flavius, 35, a passer-by in an attempted robbery last Friday. The commissioner said at least five persons were arrested during the search for drugs Tuesday, but none in connection with the weekend murder.

Phillips, in his radio broadcast, said that several members of the public have had their firearms stolen, but have not reported these incidents to the police.

"We are warning these persons that if these firearms turn up in the hands of criminals, and they are not reported stolen, the licenced owners will have a lot of questions to answer."

Commissioner Phillips said that in the shooting incident he was sure there were persons who saw the villains making their escape, and knew who they were, but were afraid to come forward with the information.

"It is not right for St. Lucians who have the information to stay home and not come forward for fear of their lives," he said.

"How far can we get in the fight against crime when we virtually endorse the action of criminals?"

Trinidad and Tobago

Minister Urges Teachers To Cancel Sickout

FL2809153688 Bridgetown CANA in English 1520 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Sept 28, CANA—Education Minister Clive Pantin has appealed to teachers to cancel a sickout called by their union for Friday, to protest possible state sector job cuts.

At a series of school opening ceremonies he assured teachers that a cabinet document recently made public and which outlines possible job cuts in the 65,000 strong public service will not affect teachers.

"I want to draw to the unions attention that while I recognise their decision to fight for the rights of their employees, do not fan the fires of dissension that are being stoked by those members of society who are in a minority and do not wish to see a democratic government in the country," Pantin told the Trinidad GUARDIAN.

Teachers have been advised in a circular that their protest this week will require the wearing of red on Thursday and a sick-out on Friday.

"They can wear whatever they wish as long as they do not flout the dress code," Pantin said.

The steps by the teachers are part of the escalated protest by public servants. The joint negotiating team of public sector unions is currently assessing the effect of the leakage of their plans to government, which made it public on a television programme last Monday.

PRI Leader on Respecting Voters, Party Renewal

FL2809164588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Sep (NOTIMEX)— Jorge de la Vega Dominguez, president of the PRI National Executive Committee [CEN], today warned that it would be a blow to democracy if the political struggle were to only strengthen parties and the basic objective of strengthening the nation was forgotten. He exhorted the opposition political parties to adhere to the terms of the Constitution. Let us end the days of annuling rights and move on to the days of meeting our responsibilities, he told them.

Speaking at the regular national meeting of the CEN which awarded the medal of revolutionary merit to President Miguel de la Madrid, De la Vega made it clear that the PRI respects the Mexicans who thoughtfully cast their votes for opposition candidates and parties. In this regard, he also said that, likewise, the PRI demands that the other parties respect Mexicans, whose massive number of votes gave the PRI its victory. We reject the attempt by other parties to discredit the votes of the Mexican people. He made it clear that the legitimacy of the PRI's victory is not for discussion because the people have certified it. Later, criticizing his party, he acknowledged that there is a need to transform and modernize something that no longer works. Let us consolidate what is efficient and valid so that the PRI may continue as the vanguard of the people. He reiterated: Let us always elect, democratically, the men and women of known party devotion so that they can guide our organization at all levels, and let us always nominate the best, most influential, prestigious, and popular members of the PRI to elective office.

He stressed that under this premise, we may strengthen our commitment with the most needy. Let us push forward with renewed energy and firm determination as the true allies of the peasants, the workers, and the largest popular groups.

Cardenas Comments on Organization of Opposition

PA2809144188 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 23 Sep 88 p 1, 5

["Part two" of "text" of "exclusive" interview with Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, former presidential candidate of the National Democratic Front, by Guillermo Almeyra—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Almeyra: [Passage omitted] Your struggle to restore democracy and strengthen the movement that emerged and shares your goal exemplifies Mexico's entire history from Juarez to the revolution to the Lazaro Cardenas administration. The struggle against illegal acts and corruption and the struggle for democracy and national independence is exemplary. These actions apparently threaten not only U.S. interests but also local interests that promote cooperation with the United States.

We have seen the participation of police forces in the parliament and death threats have been made to CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers] Secretary Fidel Velasquez and Cardenas followers. These actions are illegal and go against union rules. It would seem that democracy is respected today by the opposition but not by the establishment's forces. The strong democratization that you propose requires, of course, organization in order to keep the situation in perspective, to keep channels of communication open, and to prevent your protest from being locked into the electoral process. How are you planning to confront the forces that oppose you and your movement?

Cardenas: One of the most important achievements of the electoral campaign has been to unite the opposition parties. The opposition parties managed to reach an agreement because they understand that the struggle for democracy, in the broadest sense of the word—the participation of the Mexican people and respect for rights and equal opportunities—was necessary to achieve the economic and social goals of each party.

We also achieved substantial popular mobilization, which continues today. This mobilization includes members from political parties and associations and millions of nonorganized citizens. We now must provide a structure for and organize the entire movement. The crucial question is: What type of political organization should we form? How can we help the millions of citizens who do not belong to any political party or organization have access to our organization if we want to integrate our parties? If we hope to unite our parties, what has to be done so that the different political agendas do not clash? How can it be made very clear that we will not order anybody to abandon their political roots or ideology?

We have to organize the movement. Perhaps there will be a federation of political parties or the formation of a single political party. We, however, have to direct all our efforts toward the formation of a major party. This party will comprise all the millions of citizens who participated and mobilized in the electoral campaign and who want to continue to participate politically to achieve the changes required by the workers and the country.

On New Party, Labor, Army

PA2809235788 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 24 Sep 88 pp 1,4

["Part three and final part" of "text" of "exclusive" interview with Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, former presidential candidate of the National Democratic Front, by Guillermo Almeyra—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] There is no democracy without open and honest information. The struggle for democracy in the news media is a struggle "to win and improve minds," Cuauhtemoc Cardenas stressed toward the end of this interview.

Almeyra: In your 14 September speech at El Zocalo, you urged the thousands who attended the event to form committees and organize themselves to defend their own causes. The French Revolution began with the Grievance Books, the notebooks compiled by going from town to town, and zone to zone, defending their causes. This decentralization, democratization, and self-organization is, in a way, something highly subversive in Latin America and Mexico, and it could provide the basis for the creation of a single organization.

Cardenas: Everyone's initiative should be unleashed and all must be put on an equal basis to achieve the best and most efficient forms of local organization possible. Above all, there must not be any obstacles to preclude the people's organization. The results achieved in peasant regions will be different from what is achieved at industrial work centers and at intellectual urban centers. [passage omitted]

Almeyra: This involves both the people's organization and the party's organization. Certain sectors believe this resembles a pool of organizations that are already functioning, plus the participation of a great majority of the people in the formation of a party. Does this mean that a broader form must be sought, meaning a party of citizens where everyone participates on an equal basis, including new sectors, and the appointment of younger, more representative, and lower-level leaders?

Cardenas: This is one of the basic things that must be discussed. I particularly believe that the new party must be a citizens party; however, we must wait and see what the organizations decide so that whatever exists does not interfere with what must be built. We are at a point where we must create a new political regime, and it must be a democratic regime. This must be clearly proved to the citizenry.

Almeyra: This brings us to the problem of the principal means of coercion, which is the harness of the bureaucracy and labor unions. How can one democratize the labor unions? If hiring is done directly by the labor unions and the government, and the government sets the rules, guidelines, and salaries, then democracy becomes practically nonexistent at the factory level. Would it not be better to have the employers do the hiring at the factories? That way people would have more control in choosing their own leaders and in discussing not only their salaries, but labor conditions and regulations as well.

Cardenas: The struggle in the labor unions will have to be waged at several levels. The struggle will involve fighting at the grass roots level because democratization has to reach the labor unions. The workers must be free to choose leaders and to organize their participation in political life. They must have the freedom to participate in politics individually, not as a corporate body. Additionally, there will also have to be a struggle for democratization in the directorates of all the large labor confederations. The struggle must take place at various levels. Whatever we achieve on the outside, whatever progress we make in the country's social life, will have its effects in the heart of the labor unions. The labor union will have to keep in mind every instance in which the law meets a worker's demands. Every correct ruling will affect its corporate structure. Whatever happens on the outside will be a determining factor. We think that, at this time, each labor union will have to form small groups to wage the internal struggle for democratization. At the same time, the labor unions also must be a part of the great organized national struggle, a struggle that will also lead to promoting changes in labor.

Almeyra: The Mexican revolution was a great democratic movement of national liberation. It had a major socialist wing, which was represented by your father, Francisco Mujica, and other revolutionaries. They wanted to achieve equality and solidarity and to liberate men from cultural, political, and social oppression. The basic process, which characterizes the movement you head, is similar to the one—through other means and under different conditions—conducted in Chile with Salvador Allende and the Popular Unity. Will you find the same resistance Allende found? Will the state use its institutions to repress your movement?

Cardenas: The forces that oppose people's movements are the same everywhere you go, both local and foreign. The only thing left for us to do is to find out what forces oppose change and organize all those who are willing to change. Local democracy must correspond with democracy in international relations to guarantee equality among the states. We are struggling to end dependence among nations and to achieve equal development.

Almeyra: In one of your campaign speeches, you talked about the nationalist military men who, you said, should overcome corruption and destroy all policies aimed at inhibiting national independence and democracy. Is there a sector within the Mexican Armed Forces that shares those views?

Cardenas: The Armed Forces, like other institutions in the country, reflect what is happening in the country. This was proved during the elections because the media more or less published where and for whom the military voted. We know that many of them voted for the National Democratic Front. Many in the Army directly expressed their views to us, although they cannot express themselves openly and publicly because of Army discipline and regulations. We know that some Army sectors like our movement. Although we cannot have a direct policy for the Armed Forces, we know that there are some in the Army who oppose corruption and dependence and want democratic change, which is necessary for the country.

Almeyra: Some media, both state-owned and private, had a shameful attitude toward the opposition and tried to misinform people. The votes you received, you received despite the media. Voters learned to read

between the lines and to understand the opposite of what the media said. Voters learned to think critically and on their own before making any decisions. Are there any possibilities that your movement will struggle for the democratization of at least the state-owned media, which taxpayers support?

Cardenas: An important part of our struggle is the control of the state-owned media because the organized citizens have a right to participate in it. We must find a way to do that in order to prevent public funds from being used to benefit the government party and media owners. Television coverage must be available for all political parties, communities, and the general public. We must also check into the source of the funds being used by political parties during their campaigns to prevent partiality and the illegal use of public funds, which come from citizens' taxes. There is no democracy and citizens' rights without ample, honest, and truthful information. The struggle for democracy is a struggle to create awareness among people.

Increased Cooperation With EEC Planned

PA2809145288 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 24 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] Mexico and the EEC countries agreed yesterday to promote scientific and technical cooperation. Agreements will cover important areas which will stimulate technological, industrial, and scientific development for mutual benefit. The Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat [SRE] made the announcement yesterday. It disclosed the final results of the First Mixed Subcommission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Mexico and the EEC, which met on 22 and 23 September in Mexico City. The SRE stated that the two sides reaffirmed their decision to promote cooperation in the following areas: agriculture, health, energy, biotechnology, disaster prevention, environmental engineering, ecology, industrial engineering, nonferrous metallurgy, forestry, and food.

Nicaragua

Ortega on Possible Peace Prize for Reagan

PA2809125988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1213 GMT 28 Sep 88

["Statement to the Nicaraguan people and the international community" by President Daniel Ortega in Managua on 27 September--read by announcer]

[Text] The news media recently reported that U.S. President Ronald Reagan has been proposed as a candidate to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. According to the reports, the request is based on the arms limitations agreements reached by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Although we acknowledge the importance of those agreements, for the Nicaraguan people and government the awarding of the Nobel Prize to President Reagan would be an action that would have grave consequences for international law. It would further threaten the countries that do not have nuclear arms and that have based their security on the people's readiness and on the UN Charter.

It is known that since 1981, President Ronald Reagan has carried out a policy of aggression, which has already left more than 55,818 victims and caused more than $12.2 billion in damages. The U.S. President has openly proclaimed the use of force as a fundamental instrument of his foreign policy, thus affecting basic principles of our civilization.

That policy, which reaches levels of state terrorism, has been categorically condemned by the International Court of Justice, the world's highest court, which, in its 27 June 1986 ruling, found the United States guilty of violations of international law, particularly the principles of the nonuse of force, nonintervention, and respect for the sovereignty of states, among other grave transgressions of international law. In its ruling, the court ordered a halt to the U.S. military and paramilitary activities against Nicaragua and retribution for the damage and harm they have caused. To date, the United States has not abided by the court's ruling and has not heeded the insistent calls issued by the UN General Assembly in various resolutions demanding complete and immediate fulfillment of the ruling.

The entire international community has seen with concern how the United States has refused to join those nations that respect the law and moral principles. That defiant attitude was publicly confirmed by President Reagan in his speech to the 43d session of the UN General Assembly on 26 September. I hope that fundamental values for humanity and its destiny, such as peace and respect for international law, will not be again disregarded.

For an honorable peace, free fatherland or death!

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra
27 September 1988

BARRICADA Criticizes Reagan UN Speech

PA2809220688 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Sep 88 p 3

[Editorial: "Confession of a Failure and a Prevailing Threat"]

[Text] In his speech to the UN General Assembly yesterday, President Ronald Reagan admitted to the world the failure of his policy against Nicaragua by saying this country was the exception in his alleged foreign policy "achievements" attained in the 8 years of his imperial administration.

In his last speech to the organization, the shameless U.S. President tried to take the credit for himself and his country for the progress made in the resolution of regional conflicts, which rightly belongs to the efforts made by the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the will of the countries involved, which were systematically sabotaged by the United States. He did the same when referring to the strategic arms limitation agreement, which everyone knows was Gorbachev's initiative.

However, the fact that Reagan insists on saying he will continue to support the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries undermines his intention of stepping down from the Presidency and from the world scene looking like a "peace hurricane" and it is proof of his administration's warmongering logic.

With regard to Nicaragua, Reagan spoke as if he were a judge and not as the party directly involved in a dirty war that was condemned by the United Nation's highest court.

A criminal president, whose government has been found guilty of genocide, has no authority to speak about revolutionaries or about the nation that has been his victim. He cannot describe as "peaceful" what has been a deliberate sabotage of the Esquipulas peace process—which was born despite his will—and he cannot demand that it be fulfilled either.

Reagan cannot shamelessly avoid his responsibility by involving the USSR in a conflict that has not been created by the latter. The only possible "constructive realism" [realismo constructivo] in Central America is the one that can be assumed by the United States itself, which before mentioning names, should set the example by immediately suspending the aggression, the blockade, and the aid to the contras as well as by compensating Nicaragua according to the ruling issued by the International Court of Justice.

"Constructive realism" would be to admit the failure of the policy of force and the plan to overthrow a government, which was legitimately formed, by means of a mercenary war and the sedition practiced by a rented opposition.

"Constructive realism" would mean the initiation of talks between the United States and Nicaragua. In his speech, however, Reagan said quite the contrary. He threatened to make his White House successor inherit the conflict.

The statement made by vice president and candidate George Bush that "peace may be achieved through the use of force" goes to prove it. Moreover, an hour of pseudopacifist talk is not enough to erase 8 years of war.

Reagan's farewell speech at the United Nations proves that his imperial obsession with Nicaragua still exists.

As for us, to have a sense of realism, we should therefore maintain the same or higher levels of organization and mobilization for our defense, with which throughout these years we were able to become Reagan's greatest failure.

Officer, Coop President Killed in Contra Attack

PA2809180188 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1742 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Early this morning a group of approximately 40 counterrevolutionaries attacked the village of Los Angeles, located 7 km from Nueva Guinea, Chontales Department.

Second Lieutenant Heriberto Martinez Jarquin and Comrade Leonel Hernandez died heroically defending the village. Martinez was the officer in charge the Patriotic Military Service in the zone and Hernandez was president of the Los Angeles Agricultural Cooperative.

The mercenaries attacked the town at 0100 and took civilian clothes and food from a local store, according to a report issued by the Defense Ministry's public relations office and broadcast by our colleague Julio Aragon in the 5th Region.

Panama

Solis on U.S. Ties, Pressure, Nation's Economy

PA2809173388 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1509 GMT 28 Sep 88

[News conference held by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, with reporters at the United Nations in New York—live]

[Text] [Solis] Good morning, Messrs journalists. In my speech yesterday, I talked about the situation that currently exists in my country. I am here to answer your questions, to explain anything you did not fully understand, and to clear any other doubts. I am ready to answer your questions. Thank you.

[Gonzalez] Roberto Gonzalez Perez, NOTIMEX, Mexico. Yesterday, immediately after your speech, Ambassador Vernon Walters said that the United States will respect the letter and spirit of the canal treaties. My first question is: Do you believe this? Second: Is Panama serving as a base from which to destabilize Nicaragua? Is the United States using Panama to destabilize Nicaragua?

[Solis] I will gladly answer those questions. I believe that the answer to the first question is provided by an ACAN-EFE cable that states: The United States asserted today that Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega's tyranny endangers the normal implementation of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter treaties on the Panama Canal. This statement does not seem to concur with the statement you have mentioned. Referring to the second question, our current problems with the U.S. Government largely began when Panama refused to become the base from which to launch a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Mr President, the U.S. Government had good relations with Panama until about 1 year ago. Can you give us a reason for the change?

[Solis] We feel that the harmonious relationship achieved in recent years, which had been based on Panamanian-U.S. interests, deteriorated into a conflict following the USSR-U.S. agreement or agreements. The Torrijos-Carter treaties specify that U.S. troops must withdraw from their bases in Panama. However, the current U.S. military strategy—specifically a low-intensity war—demonstrates a heightened U.S. interest in those bases. Therefore, we are facing a conflict that the U.S. Government believes can be settled by eliminating the current Panamanian Government and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] structure.

[Reporter] I represent CBS. Governor Dukakis has referred to Gen Noriega as public enemy No 1 and said that if he becomes president he will make no deals with drug traffickers. Similar accusations have been made by the two presidential candidates. Bush said the same thing. My question is: Regardless of who is elected president in January, what is your prediction about Panamanian-U.S. relations? What will happen, given that the two candidates say that they will not deal with Gen Noriega or with your government as long as Gen Noriega is in charge of the military forces?

[Solis] We deplore the fact that the two candidates' campaign includes conditioning the resumption of good relations with the United States on Gen Noriega's presence [in Panama]. We deplore this because we see no solution to our problems if that is the case. A U.S. political campaign... [changes thought] A candidate's rise to power cannot be based on his ability to impose his will on a sovereign country, to determine who can or cannot

be its Armed Forces commander, or who can or cannot be its president. This represents a direct interference in another country's affairs and is unacceptable from any standpoint.

I believe that if the problem is handled correctly, after one of the candidates assumes the U.S. Presidency, we can perfectly well reach an agreement and settle our basic differences. This means that mutual respect could prevail between our two nations when we sit down to negotiate and to discuss our differences based on our common concerns. Neither Gen Noriega nor any other Panamanian official represents a problem per se. The problem is of a broader and deeper nature. Thus, we must review our problems and differences.

[Shannon] Don Shannon from THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. In your speech yesterday, you said that Panama's gross national product had dropped by 20 percent since February 1988. If the Panamanian economy continues deteriorating at that pace, would it be possible for Gen Noriega to remain in power? How long do you think the Panamanian people will put up with that situation?

[Solis] We believe that the 20-percent drop in the Panamanian GNP that Panama will record in 1988 will not continue at the same pace in 1989. The surprising U.S. economic aggression forced us to change all our structures and to change the course of our economy. Obviously, the measures we are taking will not have an immediate effect and will not stop the deterioration of the Panamanian economy in 1988, but they will have an effect in 1989. We do not expect a further deterioration of the Panamanian economy.

In addition, the presence of Gen Noriega is not the cause of the economy's deterioration, which has been the U.S. Administration's goal. Insofar as we experience economic aggression, the Panamanian people's nationalistic spirit and their understanding of our problems will be strengthened. Gen Noriega will not suffer from the direct impact of our economy's deterioration, but relations between Panama and the United States will suffer. The U.S. Government does not seem to fully understand the Panamanian people's strong nationalism and their determination to keep Panama a free, sovereign, and independent nation.

[Reporter] Mr President, how is it possible that a sovereign country like Panama allows the former Panamanian ambassador [Juan B. Sosa] to occupy the Panamanian Embassy in Washington, DC.? I cannot understand that. I have a second question. Where is former Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle now?

[Solis] First, Panama is a free, sovereign, and independent nation. However, I never said that Panama is a military world power capable of facing a challenge that goes beyond issues of sovereignty to our military strength. Because of our powerlessness, we cannot act when we are defied in the way that we are being defied now. Not withdrawing the ambassador is an action taken out of caution to prevent them [U.S. Government officials] from using the withdrawal as an excuse to launch a military attack.

Let me respond to your second question. I can tell you former President Delvalle first was inside U.S. military bases. He is currently at the U.S. Embassy, on Panamanian soil. We only hear of him when he flies to the United States in military planes to buy racehorses.

[Reporter] You have not answered my question about the embassy in Washington, DC.

[Solis] As I told you, the problem of the Panamanian Embassy in Washington is similar to the problem of the Washington Embassy in Panama. We cannot impose an ambassador on the United States. The United States is violating all principles of law and respect by not accepting our government and deciding on who should compose the Panamanian Government and should therefore represent the Panamanian Government in Washington. We are not materially capable right now of changing such a totally incomprehensible attitude.

[Schwartz] My name is [name indistinct] Schwartz, from UPI. According to you, neither Gen Noriega nor any other official will be an obstacle for solving Panama's problems. Your speech yesterday was based greatly on Noriega. Whatever is said, discussed, and fought over about this problem is based on Noriega. It is impossible to understand, at least for those of us abroad, how this whole drama can be based on one word and one person alone. Could you explain more about this problem? What is the mystery surrounding Noriega?

[Solis] I am sorry that my speech has been interpreted as being based on Noriega.

[Schwartz] That is my impression.

[Solis] That is why I say I am sorry, because my speech was based on the facts of the aggression. If Noriega were responsible for this aggression—and that is something we do not believe—then such an interpretation could be possible. What I have done, however, is express the various incidents comprising the U.S. economic aggression and military threat. My references to Noriega attempt to demonstrate how the United States has manipulated disinformation to create a different image of Panama. The U.S. Government has thus imposed its own viewpoints, which are based, in our opinion, on a clear and definite interest: preserving bases on Panamanian territory.

[Gabriel] Alexander Gabriel, U.S. correspondent at the United Nations. I went to your country and saw your people's character. I do not have to describe it. They are very politically aware. My question has to do with the

rising regionalism that all the countries have referred to during the general debate. When I speak of Panama, I am actually referring to the Central American region. My question is: Does Panama have a special interest or policy concerning the Arias initiative, or is Panama too far away from Arias?

[Solis] Panama has always supported Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' initiative; it is consonant with the position that Panama has always maintained within the Contadora Group. Indeed, the principle maintained by the Contadora Group—of which Panama is a main founder—is based on seeking peace through understanding among the Central American peoples.

[Reporter] How long will you be able to withstand U.S. pressures?

[Solis] I do not know how long we will be able to resist U.S. pressures. However, as far as economic pressures are concerned, our people have shown unlimited capacity. When pressures began, experts on international problems and U.S. analysts versed on the Panamanian situation did not give us more than 15 days. Yesterday... [corrects himself] Yesterday or today, we began our 8th month heading the government.

[Reporter, in English with translation into Spanish] As the civilian head of government in Panama, do you think you could separate Gen Noriega from his post, and what could happen to you if you decided to do so?

[Solis] The Constitution of the Republic of Panama clearly states that the president of the Republic appoints the FDP commander, according to the military roster. Law 20, which regulates FDP duties and responsibilities, specifies the reasons for removing the FDP commander from his post. It is not a legal procedure for the president of the Republic to remove the FDP commander. Nonetheless, in March, in a voluntary action, Commander Noriega left in my hands the decision of separating him from his post whenever I deemed it convenient. However, I must say I will not make use of the personal authorization he gave me—not because he must authorize it, but because it is determined by the law —as long as the commander leads the FDP in accordance with our national interests and the laws of the Republic. At no time will I act under pressures favoring interests different from those of my country in making such a decision.

[Reporter, in English with translation into Spanish] Obviously, the real issue really separating the United States and Panama is the drug problem. This has been said repeatedly. The Justice Department has said members of your government have participated in illegal drug trafficking in the United States. My question is: Without admitting any guilt, is there anything your government could propose to stop the drug flow that the United States claims comes from Panama—perhaps similar to what Mexico and Colombia have done to stop the flow of illegal drugs to the United States?

[Solis] The Panamanian civilian government and the FDP have been and continue to be interested in seeking all means to stop any drug trafficking through the Republic of Panama. Panama is not a drug producer. In any event, because of its geographical position, it is prone to be used as a bridge for drug trafficking. However, you may recall that recent agreements have been reached with representatives from both the U.S. and Brazilian Governments, and we would be willing to do the same with any other country—Bolivia or any other drug-producing country where drug traffickers could use Panama as a bridge—to reduce or eliminate if possible drug trafficking. We are the first ones to understand the meaning of this traffic, how destructive it is for mankind. The civilian government and the FDP commit themselves to do whatever we can. However, we also expect drug consuming countries to adopt necessary measures, because the two aspects go hand in hand in controlling this ominous business.

[Reporter] I would like to ask two questions. We all know about the controversy regarding the granting of visas to you and your delegation to allow you to come to the United Nations. My question is whether the visa that was granted to you included some restrictions on your stay in the United States, whether you have to remain inside the United Nations. The other question is whether in your meeting with the GRULA [UN Latin American Group] there had been some progress with the Latin American countries and particularly with the Group of Eight, which will meet here on Friday to review Panama's return to the Group of Eight, from which it has been absent all these months.

[Solis] First of all, the visa has restrictions. It is limited to just the activities within the United Nations. In my meeting with the GRULA, we only presented very general aspects of our position and of the relations with the Latin American and Caribbean countries. However, we did not go into detail about again occupying a seat in the Group of Eight and we did not discuss other considerations. This is an aspect we have to address later and that is in the hands of our foreign minister.

[Metzler] Joan Metzler of the FINANCIAL POST. Given your country's current economic situation, can you describe the situation within the Panamanian banks and the Panama Canal administration situation? In what way has the economic problem affected these two important sectors of your country?

[Solis] Concerning the banking situation, it has been gradually improving following the 67 days during which the country's banking activity was closed. As soon as the banks opened, it was initially determined that they would receive deposits. Days later, it was decided that the banks could release 25 percent of the funds in checking accounts. One and one-half months later, it was decided that this percentage would be increased to 40 percent, up to a maximum of 10,000 balboas.

It was subsequently decided that up to 50 percent of the amounts deposited in checking accounts prior to the freeze would be released, up to a maximum of 50,000 balboas. Deposits made after the freeze can be freely withdrawn. Therefore, there has been progress in this regard, and we are sure that by the end of the year, the funds deposited in checking accounts and a large part of the savings accounts will be released. What has yet to be decided is the matter of the fixed-term deposits. Therefore, this situation has been improving.

What was the second question?

[Speaker] In what way has the economic problem affected these two important sectors of your country?

[Solis] The canal has been functioning normally. To date, the only party affected is the Panamanian Government, because it is not receiving its share [of canal revenues] in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties. These are additional funds that have been frozen by President Reagan's administration.

[Reporter] One more question. A few years ago, Mr Ardito Barletta held a news conference with us during the UN General Assembly. The following day, he was no longer president. Mr Delvalle also spoke to us from the very seat where you are now sitting. Can you talk to us about the difficult situation of your predecessors and your chances of being able to permanently lead the people of Panama?

[Solis] Gladly. In Spanish we say: It is better the third time around. I hope not to be the third one out for a very simple reason. The FDP fully shares our position to defend the sovereignty and dignity of the Republic of Panama. The position of the civilian government has been to keep the FDP as a force of cooperation. My personal interests will not change with the flattery and promises of anyone, in or out of the country. My permanent position is to defend Panama, and I am absolutely certain that my position is shared by the country's Defense Forces, because we are united in the Panamanian nationalist struggle.

Addresses New York Panamanians

PA2909043788 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0245 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, to Panamanians residing in New York on 28 September—recorded]

[Text] Good evening everyone. Companeros of the Anti-intervention Committee in Panama, friends of the delegation accompanying me: It is not easy to express the emotion that I feel on sensing, on experiencing the vibrant feelings of Panamanians at this moment in New York. I sincerely cannot explain how it is possible to find Panamanian sons of the Panamanian fatherland who left their fatherland a long time ago to live here in the United States for natural, proper reasons of their evolution, who feel their Panamanian nationality with true fervor, yet there are people in our country who live there, who enjoy the wealth of the country and have betrayed it in the manner that they have. [applause]

We cannot conceive that someone who has been born in our country, our fatherland which we all love and for which we are all ready to die, can have asked for foreign intervention to massacre our people, to humiliate it, and to do away with the Panamanian nation, the basis of the livelihood of all of us who were born in that beloved isthmus. [applause] But this difficult struggle, which will continue to be difficult, has placed many Panamanians in difficult situations, causing them to lose their jobs, to have their incomes reduced, causing many to leave the capital and go to the interior without any set destination, to find what fate has in store.

As I said in my speech [to the UN General Assembly], we live with the anguish that on any morning we may be invaded by U.S. troops. We live in a permanent state of anxiety and anguish. We struggle daily to overcome the crisis we are enduring. We must set the country on a different path. [Woman shouts: "Long live General Noriega!"] We must change the course of our economy, seek relations with whoever has the ability of appreciating, recognizing, and honoring the friendship that we offer them, not with those who have turned their backs on us, not with those who have betrayed our good faith, but with any country and with the countries of the world who have relations of respect, of decorum and dignity with us, who recognize us as a free, sovereign, and independent nation. I reiterate that we will overcome this difficult moment. The crisis has served to demonstrate something that we perhaps doubted in the past: It is the spirit of struggle, the indomitable character of the Panamanian, which we have confirmed here today. If they close off one path, we will resort to another. And you are here to honor the fatherland, to meet with its president, so the president can shake hands with the authentic Panamanians. [applause, shouts of "not one step backward"]

We must make it clearly understood that the campaign that was unleashed against Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, standard-bearer of the peace and dignity of the Republic, is undoubtedly based on the attempt to remove one of our principal leaders at this moment to topple the resistance of the Republic and to take to the government those who, losing their sense of Panama, betray it and want power to profit from it and to sell the Republic. [applause] They want to make us believe that if we remove Commander Noriega everything will be solved in Panama. But if we remove Noriega, the Panama Defense Forces will be weakened, civilian power will be weakened, and national resistance will lose its strength, because when an army loses its leader, the thrust and struggle of its soldiers is also lost. And we will not permit this. It matters not if they say that the president is not in command and obeys Noriega's orders.

This president is in command, but also has regard for Noriega and will keep him in his post, because he is the paladin of national liberation. [applause, shouts] We will not fall into the trap they have set for us.

If they want to negotiate with Panama, let them sit down at a table to talk with us as one nation to another, safeguarding the different interests, and respecting one another. On this path we can march toward peace, [words indistinct] toward the tranquillity of all countries.

But not through humiliation. We want to say as Torrijos said: Never on our knees; always on our feet, always forward. Because, if we did not, we would betray this spirit of yours, the spirit of the Panamanians who are struggling there.

Humberto Brown told the truth. It was always said you did not love Panama. [crowd shouts: "Los chombos." (Panamanians of black ancestry)]. I do not want to say it because I have never said it. They are the chombos. [crowd shouts: "Los chombos."]. They said you were more linked to the U.S. interests than to the rest of the Panamanian people. Now it so happens that these chombos—as the brother says—today are linked to the country's very roots and have surrendered and sold themselves to the country that has shared its wealth with them because they are the result, to a great extent, of the U.S. policy. They do not speak Spanish, not because of their origin, but because of the size of their wallets. [applause]

This struggle has brought both grief and great hope. It has made it possible for Panamanians to define themselves. It has made it possible for us to know ourselves, to know where those are who love their homeland and where those are who betray it. This has served to unite us all and to strengthen our nationality and our struggle. With unbending vitality, we will reemerge from this sad economic situation with those Panamanians who are aware of their responsibilty and destiny. We will reemerge with a people willing to march always forward. We will negotiate with all countries of the world seeking a solution to our people's problem.

I am sure that the Panama we all desire will begin to reappear in a few months because this energy that you and those living in Panama are giving to the homeland constitutes a foundation good enough for a promising future. Again, I feel much more committed to my country because you make me see more and more clearly that those of us who head the Panamanian Government must give everything, even life, to maintain the dignity that you and the struggling Panamanians are teaching us every day.

For this country, for this homeland we all love, I want you to give two cheers, one for Gen Noriega and the Panama Defense Forces [crowd shouts: "Long live Noriega!"], the other for Panama, the unbending homeland [crowd shouts: "Long live Panama!"]. Thank you very much.

Santa Rosa Sugar Mill Searched for Weapons

PA2909010288 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Luis Narvaez, agricultural research director of the Santa Rosa Sugar Mill, told ACAN-EFE today that more than 20 armed civilians and military personnel searched the installations, personnel, and vehicles of the Santa Rosa Sugar Mill in search of weapons and subversive material.

Deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle is a shareholder of this sugar mill, whose expropriation has been demanded by progovernment sectors.

Narvaez said that sugar mill executives fear that the authorities may expropriate the mill. He added that such an action would be unjust since Delvalle is not a majority shareholder.

Brazil

Reaction to Armies Conference, Documents

Sarney: Accords 'Normal'

PY2809174288 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Sep 88 p A-5

[Text] Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Henrique Santos yesterday said that President Sarney was aware of the contents of the documents approved at the 17th Conference of the Armies of the Americas (CEA). According to Henrique, the documents signed by the Brazilian Army "are not international accords and they do not compel Brazil to comply with their terms." Henrique said that "despite unjustified concern, a democratic system in which the public freedoms are guaranteed is in force in the country."

Henrique did not specifically state the Brazilian Government's attitude toward the accords because Brazil is not compelled to comply with them. Henrique said that "the president is determined to assure the democratic process in the country."

The spokesman said the CEA conference "is a technical conference like the ones held in several other sectors," adding that the conclusions are also "technical and specific." In response to the journalists' insistent questioning, Henrique said: "What do you want me to tell you? Do you want me to say that democracy is being threatened? Well, I say that it is not."

Acting Foreign Minister Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima said that despite the fact the CEA decisions were not revealed at the time of their signing, "the government was already aware of them."

Following a meeting with Sarney, Jose Lourenco, PFL leader in the Chamber of Deputies for the state of Bahia, said that the president terms as "normal" the accords signed by the 15 Armies of the Americas.

According to Lourenco, Sarney said the accords do not affect the national sovereignty and interests, or "our respect for those who advocate different ideologies."

Upon leaving Alvorada Palace, Lourenco stated that the documents cannot be regarded as "an international accord" because they were not drawn up by Itamaraty or signed by the president of the Republic, and because they were not approved by the national congress. During the evening Henrique denied that the issue was discussed by Sarney and Lourenco.

Acting Foreign Minister Cited

PY2809143188 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Sep 88 p 6

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima yesterday said that the federal government knew about the Conference of the Armies of the Americas and its results. He also stressed that, in Spanish, the word "agreement" can also be taken to mean an understanding. The acting foreign minister and several diplomats have emphasized that even though Brazil has signed a document that indicates Moscow is an exporter of communism and subversion, it will not interfere with President Jose Sarney's trip to the Soviet Union in October.

The diplomats also stated that the agreement, as it was termed in Argentina, has absolutely no legal standing. An agreement has to be approved by the president and ratified by congress.

Soviet Embassy Report

PY2809171388 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Sep 88 p A-5

[By Josias de Souza, chief of the Brasilia bureau]

[Text] The Soviet Embassy in Brasilia has sent to its Foreign Ministry in Moscow a detailed report on the 17th Conference of the Armies of the Americas, which was held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 1987. Army representatives from 15 countries of the Americas, including Brazil, participated in the conference. The Soviet Embassy's report indicates that the military men of the American Continent signed 15 agreements in which they view the International Communist Movement (MCI) as an enemy and therefore something that must be confronted.

The Soviet Union is cited in an "intelligence report" that indicates the USSR is one of the countries that heads the MCI, together with Cuba and Nicaragua.

It is very common for the Soviet Embassy to draft "reports" for Moscow. The procedure is adopted every time the Ministry of Foreign Affairs determines that a certain matter is important for its country. An embassy report can reach the hands of Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev if the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers it appropriate.

News of the dissemination of the CEA documents was not well received by the Soviet Embassy. No one has been officially authorized to comment on the matter. However, a top-ranking embassy officer, under the condition that his name not be revealed, expressed his surprise over the "basis" regarding communism that is revealed in the documents. He stressed that the incident will not do any "major harm" to President Jose Sarney's

trip. Sarney is scheduled to depart from Brasilia on 14 October. The participation of Brazilian military men in the Mar del Plata meeting has only caused a feeling of "deception."

At 1915 on 26 September, presidential spokesman Carlos Henrique dos Santos told reporter Simone Salles, of our Brasilia bureau, that the Brazilian Government had not received any official expression of displeasure from the Soviet Embassy. Itamaraty leadership has stated it views as harmful the leaking of the documents before Sarney's trip.

Brazilian diplomats believe that an inquiry into the incident would only harm the contacts of the three military ministers, who have been included in the presidential entourage, with Soviet authorities. Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves, Chief of the Military Household Bayma Denys, and Navy Minister Henrique Saboia will accompany Sarney.

On 26 September President Sarney discussed the leaking of the documents of the 17th CEA with Ministers Bayma Denys and Ivan Souza Mendes (SNI). All of them were of the opinion the incident had come at an "inopportune" time.

Army, Navy Ministers To Visit USSR With Sarney

PY2709162088 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Sep 88 p A-4

[From the Brasilia bureau]

[Text] Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves and Navy Minister Henrique Saboia will be included in the entourage that will accompany President Jose Sarney to Moscow in October 1988. According to FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, the participation of these ministers is seen as a gesture of good will toward the exchange of military attaches between Brazil and the USSR, which will take place in the second half of 1989.

Saboia's most important event will be his visit to the Leningrad Shipyards, where the Soviet Union builds its nuclear submarines. This shipyard builds sophisticated war vessels such as destroyers, frigates, and nuclear submarine escort vessels. During his visit, Saboia will be free to take photographs and to ask any question he likes about the materiel that he will inspect. The Soviets intend to give the same kind of treatment to Saboia that they gave to General Air Command Chief Brigadier Rosa Filho, who recently visited the Soviet Union to inspect military installations.

The visit to the Zhdanov Shipyard is important because Brazil has not yet developed its own model of a nuclear submarine. FOLHA DE SAO PAULO learned from Navy sources that the IKL-209/1,400 model submarine, which it is purchasing from German suppliers, will serve as the prototype of the future nuclear submarines that are to be built in the country.

Iranian Industries Minister Meets With Sarney

LD2809102788 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Minister of Industries Gholam Reza Shafe'i presented President 'Ali Khamene'i's message to his Brazilian counterpart Jose Sarney in Brasilia Monday.

During the meeting, Shafe'i expressed hope that the formation of the first ever Iran-Brazil joint economic commission would help boost economic exchanges in all fields as well as political and cultural ties.

Referring to the effective role Brazil played during its chairmanship of the Security Council, Shafe'i hoped that the country would continue its support for the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 in the next round of Iran-Iraq peace talks to start at U.N. HQ in New York.

In response, Sarney described President Khamene'i's message as very important and said he was deeply impressed by it. The Brazilian president said economic facilities of his country would be put at Iran's disposal during the reconstruction period. He also said Brazilian representatives at the U.N. have been instructed to play constructive role in establishment of peace and complete implementation of Resolution 598.

Meanwhile, the volume of Iran-Brazil commercial and economic exchanges is expected to reach 1.5 billion dollars according to a new contract signed between the two countries in Brasilia yesterday. The contract was signed by Gholam Reza Shafe'i and Brazilian Minister of Industry and Commerce [title as received] Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima. According to the contract, Iran's oil sale to Brazil will reach 150,000 barrels a day.

Shafe'i, who is currently in Brasilia to take part in the first Iran-Brazil joint economic commission meet, said Brazil can cooperate with Iran in transfer of technology, industrial projects, sodium carbonate production, paper, wood, rubber, power stations and producing cane sugar.

The Brazilian minister replied the two countries could meet each other's industrial and oil needs through signing of such contracts.

Sarney Not To Form Government Bloc in Congress

PY2809145788 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Sep p 4

[Text] Brasilia—When leaving leaving Alvorada Palace yesterday, Deputy Jose Lourenco, PFL leader in the Chamber of Deputies, stated that President Jose Sarney will not form a congressional bloc to support his government.

According to the deputy, who met with Sarney, the forming of a bloc would only make sense if the official leadership of the PMDB were to support it, something he considers to be very unlikely. In his opinion, it would be

much easier for the government to obtain the individual support of congressmen, not through political blocs. "This is the way things have been functioning," he added.

Appointee Positions Eliminated To Reduce Deficit
PY2709152288 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] President Jose Sarney has signed a decree eliminating 400 appointee positions within the government. This measure will reduce the government's expenditures by 7 million cruzados.

The Planalto Palace spokesman, Carlos Henrique, has said the reduction of appointee positions will help the government to reduce the public deficit.

[Begin Henrique recording] The decree eliminating 400 appointee positions is in line with the Brazilian Government's permanent effort to streamline public administration and tighten public accounts.

The government has already committed itself to reducing the 1988 deficit to 4 percent of the GDP and the 1989 deficit to 2 percent of the GDP. The government is convinced that this is the best contribution it can make to the fight against inflation. [end recording]

According to Acting Finance Minister Paulo Cesar Ximenes, the elimination of 400 appointee positions will make it possible to reduce expenditures by about 7 million cruzados.

Chile

Merino Warns 'Communists' Against Demonstrating
PY2809023488 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] If communists want to stage demonstrations the day of the plebiscite, it is going to hurt them, so they might as well stay home and be calm, Admiral Toribio Merino Castro warned. The admiral made this statement after a Government Junta meeting in which an agreement between Chile and the IDB was approved.

[Begin Merino recording] It will be better if the communists do not stage any demonstrations on 5 October because it is going to hurt them a lot. I hope everybody will stay calm during the balloting. I hope everybody will stay at home watching the counting of the votes on television. If the communists stage mobilizations, disturb the peace, or create disorders, as they usually do when they demonstrate, Carabineros, the security force responsible for public order and for maintaining peace, will take care of them. [end recording]

Adm Merino said what is at stake at the plebiscite is not simply a yes- or no-vote, but whether communists will stage a comeback or not, that is, if evil or good will prevail. [Begin Merino recording] What is at stake is not the victory of the yes- or no-vote. This is simply a case of a country deciding between the good guys and the bad guys. At this time the entire world is involved in a political struggle, or better, something that goes beyond politics, something that resembles more of a religious war. The world is trying to decide between Satan and God. Satan and God have been involved in a fight for supremacy since the world was created. God granted men the capacity to discern between good and evil. What Chile has to decide is whether it accepts the devil or not. [end recording]

Merino added that communism means total atheism, the destruction of the family unit, and all permanent elements of Western culture. Regarding the arrival of known world figures to observe the process of the plebiscite, Merino said what is going to happen in Chile will be copied by many countries that do not want to fall in the hands of communism.

Opposition Split Over PCCh Leader's Remarks
PY2809170588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0447 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 27 Sep (EFE)—The remarks made by PCCh leader Volodia Teitelboim, who urged the creation of a provisional government and the rejection of a possible yes-vote victory in the upcoming plebiscite, have been rejected by some people who oppose General Augusto Pinochet's regime.

The PCCh Politburo—the main PCCh body—however, has supported the controversial remarks made by former Senator Volodia Teitelboim, who also said that the people would take to the streets "to defend the no-vote victory."

PCCh spokesman Jose Sanfuentes has said: "We have been specially commissioned by the PCCh Politburo to echo the opinions of Volodia Teitelboim, which reflect PCCh opinion and the decision and hopes of broad sections of the nation."

Sanfuentes added that the military authorities seek "to confuse the country concerning the true dilemma that will be decided on 5 October: dictatorship or democracy." He regretted the fact that "opposition sectors have echoed the misrepresentations and have joined these attacks."

The remarks made by Teitelboim, who returned to Chile last week after living in exile for 15 years, were denounced by the military government as evidence of the existence of an "insurrectionist plot led by the Communists to wreak havoc and promote violence."

Party for Democracy (PPD) President Ricardo Lagos today joined in the rejection expressed over the past few days by spokesmen for the Christian Democratic Party, the main party opposing Pinochet's regime, and by Socialist Party Secretary General Ricardo Nunez.

In a news conference, Lagos said: "Unfortunately, these remarks serve the dictatorship's purposes of distorting the reality and intimidating the people."

Lagos added that the task of the parties supporting the no-vote, including 16 opposition parties, is "to negotiate with the Armed Forces a quick transition to democracy."

Lagos said: "We affirm that we will recognize the plebiscite's outcome, regardless of what it may be, because we will have the vote count records on hand."

Ricardo Lagos called on all Chileans "to participate in the plebiscite in good faith and not to let themselves be provoked or used by those who do not believe in this historic opportunity, which, thanks to our efforts, we have created to end the dictatorship."

Aylwin on Possible Talks

PY2909030988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] The spokesman of the no-vote supporters, Patricio Aylwin, after reading a Chilean opposition declaration on the plebiscite, said the opposition does not dismiss the possibility of a dialogue with the communists after the plebiscite, if the no-vote wins.

[Begin Aylwin recording] We are democrats and believe that human beings understand each other through reasoning and dialogue. We have been and continue to be willing to hold a dialogue. In fact, we have held a dialogue on more than one occasion because we want all Chileans, without exception, to be peaceful, calm, and responsible during the plebiscite and the days after it. That, we believe, will be the best guarantee for the success of the effort to achieve a prompt and orderly transition to democracy. [end recording]

Aylwin said that the proscribed Communist Party has excluded itself by giving the no-option a different meaning. He added that the opposition he leads will try to neutralize the Marxists' call for violence by giving guidance to those who support the no-vote.

The no-vote spokesman and president of the Christian Democratic Party has said that the opposition is the only group responsible for the progress toward democracy and that the government has only been intransigent with the support of extreme rightist groups, which he did not identify.

Aylwin reiterated that the opposition is constantly harassed and that the government seeks to invalidate the plebiscite. He added that the no-vote supporters have been asked to cast their vote in an orderly manner and then return to their homes to await the results of the vote count. Aylwin said that the opposition will not recognize as official the information disclosed by the Interior Ministry, as is traditional, and that the opposition will release its own results. However, he said that if the yes-vote wins, that decision will be recognized.

[Begin Aylwin recording] All we Chileans will have to accept and respect the result of the plebiscite, no matter what it may be, as long as no irregularities that may make the event illegitimate take place. [end recording]

He added that the results disclosed must coincide with those reflected in the minutes of the balloting tables that will be used as data for our own vote count.

Without referring to the extreme left, Aylwin said the no-vote is supported by 16 opposition political parties, even though he did not say that they are only linked by letters of intent and not a solid government program.

'Agitators' Occupy University, 28 Arrested

PY2909034688 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Specialized Carabineros forces have disloged a group of political agitators who occupied the main building of the University of Chile to promote the no-vote. A total of 17 men and 11 women were arrested during the Carabineros intervention.

According to information disclosed, the agitators—who claimed to belong to the Council of Student Federations—entered through the main entrance and blocked it off and locked some university employees in the offices.

The group occupied the Planning Directorate office, from where they hung banners and posters with political slogans out of the window facing Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue.

According to spokesman, the agitators were celebrating the no-vote victory in the upcoming plebiscite.

The university press department reported that Rector Juan de Dios Larrain asked security forces to intervene because most of the agitators did not belong to the university. He also took into account the violence used during the occupation and the fact that some of the agitators were obviously drunk.

PDC Premises Attacked; Yes-Vote Group Blamed

PY2809194588 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Excerpt] This morning at approximately 0630 the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] headquarters in the city of Arica was attacked. The PDC's premises are located at 683 Sotomayor Street, in the downtown area of the city. The identity of the attackers is unknown.

The report was filed by former congressman (Humberto Balza), the president of the PDC's local chapter, who has also received death threats in the past few hours.

This is what (Balza) told Radio Chilena's "Primera Plana" feature:

[Begin (Balza) recording] Unidentified individuals attacked the PDC's premises, located at 683 Sotomayor Street, breaking the windows of the premises and trying to break down the door. Luckily, our guard went outside to see what was happening and the attackers took off, leaving abundant yes-vote propaganda with the photograph of the candidate. The attackers also shouted threats against the members of the party's board.

We have already told the Arica public, but now we want all of the Chilean public to know, that the supporters of the yes-vote are desperate, because they see there are now more no-vote supporters than yes-vote supporters.

This is why the latter are threatening people, why they are trying to steal identity cards, and why they are resortig to any type of action that will create unrest in order to give confidence to the supporters of the yes-vote and to create an atmosphere for any type of action to be taken on 5 October. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Carabineros Detain Two, Seize Explosives

PY2809190188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Report by Ramon Galleguillos from Iquique]

[Text] The Iquique Carabineros border police have detained 2 individuals who were hiding 178 sticks of TNT, 58 detonating primers, and slow-burning fuses in a pit.

The pit was found near the town of Ujinma, 300 km from Iquique and 20 km from the Bolivian border.

The detainees are Leonardo Esteban Moscoso, 54, and Alejandro Huanuco Vilca, 58, both members of the Socialist Party-Almeyda faction. Their police record includes one violation of law No 17,798 on arms control and one homicide case in the city of Calama.

The detainees were taken to the city of Iquique yesterday and placed at the disposal of the military court.

This event has prompted the implementation of a special and permanent control operation in the rural and border areas in this region.

Minister Returns From IMF-World Bank Meeting

PY2809191888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Hernan Buchi has returned to Chile from Bonn, the FRG. In Bonn [as heard], he participated in the annual joint IMF-World Bank meeting.

During the meeting, the economic and financial situation of the participating countries was reviewed. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Government Replies To FARC on Peace Initiative

PA2809190288 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Sep 88 p 3-A

[Communique issued by Government Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo and presidential adviser Rafael Pardo Rueda in Bogota on 23 September]

[Text] 1. Several news media today published a FARC communique that has been interpreted as that armed group's reply to the government's peace initiative. Nevertheless, through the radio that links the Advisory Board for Reconciliation, Normalization, and Rehabilitation [Consejeria de Reconciliacion, Normalizacion y Rehabilitacion] with the FARC Secretariat, Jacobo Arenas, spokesman for the secretariat, told the advisory board that the communique is an internal document to be discussed by the other groups of the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board. He stated this even though the communique was released to the press by the FARC Secretariat. The secretariat has said the same thing about communiques issued by the EPL [Popular Liberation Army], the ELN [Army of National Liberation], and the M-19.

2. The government believes such behavior can only be understood as being aimed at confusing the public about the armed groups' position on the peace initiative. This obviously harms chances to create an atmosphere conducive to easing tensions, which could lead to progress in this initiative. Such an atmosphere demands that the groups maintain a clear and sincere desire for peace.

3. The government reiterates its willingness to proceed with this initiative, convinced that the objectives of reconciliation can thereby be achieved. However, it cannot consider the increase of attacks and ambushes in recent weeks or actions to confuse the public about the government's initiative as a reply that contributes to peace. In this regard, the government must warn that it will not fail to carry out its obligations to maintain public order and that it will continue to use every available means to guarantee the citizens' peace. Meanwhile, it awaits a concrete and definite reply to the peace initiative from all or each of the armed groups.

Army Uncovers 'Spectacular Terrorist Plan'

PA2809185688 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] General Jaime Ruiz Barrera, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade in Medellin, called a news conference today to announce the discovery of a spectacular terrorist plan against government installations, Army quarters, and political party headquarters in Medellin,

Rio Negro, and La Ceja by M-19, Army of National Liberation [ELN], and Popular Liberation Army [EPL] commandos acting together.

The plan—to be carried out during the 1st week of October—was destroyed by a spectacular operation, "Lightning Strike." The plan was part of preparations for a so-called general strike in the 1st week of October and included criminal actions against Antioquia Department political leaders.

According to Gen Ruiz Barrera, 60 Army search operations in the Aburra Valley turned up evidence of planned sabotage against La Alpujarra administrative center, where the Antioquia governorship and the Medellin mayorship are located.

The terrorists planned to attack political parties' headquarters; the National Bank; military headquarters; Immediate Action Units, CAIN; municipal palaces; local jails; and Telecom [National Enterprise of Telecommunications] offices in Rio Negro and La Ceja near Medellin.

The Army arrested 165 people, 80 of whom are in Medellin authorities' custody. Gen Ruiz Barrera noted the most important arrests, including those of an M-19 national leader who was in charge of planning the occupation of La Ceja and Rio Negro municipal palaces, another who was to lead the occupation of the National Bank in Medellin, and EPL and ELN members.

Briefs

Terrorism Affects Ecopetrol

The government has decided to reduce the Oil Exploration Fund by $51 million in the next 12 months. These funds will be given to Fodex, the organization that pays the foreign debt of foreign enterprises that cannot meet their obligations. According to the most recent evaluation by monetary and fiscal authorities, Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] will reduce its investments. Ecopetrol will also go from a 13-million-peso surplus to an 18-million-peso deficit. This state oil enterprise's negative situation is the result of a reduction in crude oil exports and the increase in fuel imports. These factors have resulted from terrorist attacks against the Cano-Limon Covenas pipeline. [Summary] [*PA2609195488 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Sep 88 p 9-A*]

Paraguay

New U.S. Envoy 'Revives Our Expectation'

PY2709180088 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 27 Sep 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Issues Deserving Fair Treatment"]

[Text] The arrival of a new U.S. ambassador revives our expectation that the real situation of Paraguay will be better known and more justly evaluated. The situation and development of our country do not lend themselves to quick comparisons and understanding and the objections made to them should be examined in the light of our Constitution, codes, and laws insofar as the most important human rights are concerned.

To begin, the international treaties, agreements, and convention that have been signed and ratified by Paraguay have, under constitutional provisions, precedence in their implementation over national laws.

Paraguay has committed itself to respect the fundamental rights covered by those international documents, and, moreover, our country approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a founding state of the UN organization. Although Paraguay has not ratified pacts related to that Universal Declaration, it respects the provisions thereof much better than some countries that have ratified them.

For instance, following the Universal Declaration came the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights. This commentary will focus on the first two items of Article 4 of that document. The first item says that "in exceptional situations that threaten the survival of a nation, and where the existence of such a situation has already been officially recognized, the signatories of this pact can adopt measures suspending, to the extent strictly required by the situation, the commitments assumed under this pact, provided such measures are not at odds with other obligations under international laws and do not imply discriminations for reasons of race, color, gender, language, religion, or social background." The second item declares that: "The preceding provision does not authorize suspensions of Articles 6, 7, 8 (paragraphs 1 and 2, 11, 15, 16, and 18)," which refer to the right to life and prohibition against torture, slavery, and imprisonment for debts, and consecrate the nonretroactivity of criminal laws, the nondiscriminatory recognition of human rights, and freedom of conscience and religion.

In all those cases—which are the most important—the enforcement of human rights in Paraguay can easily pass muster among many other nations that enjoy more favorable publicity in that regard.

In fact, as for the right to life, nothing that happens in Paraguay can compare with what happens daily in many other countries of this region, where not only guerrillas and terrorists, but also bus and train robbers, vandals, and gangsters are repeatedly shot down. The foreign press, which is read here daily, reports such events in other countries of the region. It is true that some such cases have taken place in Paraguay also, but they have been promptly reported in detail. The judicial branch has always intervened in those cases, as it currently is in the examination of prosecutions, accusations, trials, and sentences. "Clandestine cemeteries" or "unburied dead" are unknown in our country.

As for torture as a system, we flatly reject it. It is a practice that has long been banished, and today can be grounds for court suits and punishment of the culprits. Mistreatment exists in isolated cases, as in all countries, but the mistreatment that results from bad propaganda stems from the right of a defendant to retract the information statement he made to the police before being taken to court. In most cases, when the defendant is summoned by the judge for questioning, the first thing he does, on the advise of his counsel, is to say that his information statement was made under duress and that the confession was extracted by torture. Even when it is well known that the defendant has not been tortured by the police, his statement to the judge must be entered into the court records. Later, the statement made during the pretrial proceedings leaks out and headlines that contain the word torture, which "sell" newspapers, begin to appear. In fact, torture as a system does not exist in Paraguay, except as an expedient of the defense to favor the culprit.

We should not even talk about slavery and imprisonment for debts, because it would be demeaning for us to answer such despicable slanders about our country. Nevertheless, we challenge those who make these "denunciations" to name one slave or one person who lives in conditions of slavery, and to tell who is in prison for not paying his debts, and in which jail is he being held—except for someone who has been involved in fraud, or the purchase of dollars from the Central Bank at official rates under false pretenses, or for malfeasance of public resources, etc., which are felonies, not simple nonpayment of contracted debts.

As for the nondiscriminatory recognition of human rights, no one can blame Paraguay for want of it, because even minors and the handicapped are protected; foreigners and Indians received equal treatment as any other citizen; there is no discrimination for reasons of gender; and religious practices are guaranteed by freedom of religion, provided such practices do not offend good morals and are not detrimental to personal security.

Regarding freedom of conscience and its less subjective manifestations, such as freedom of expression and information, it should be sufficient to read the Paraguayan independent press organs and listen to radio programs every day. Some of them engage in protest and dissent to the point of seeking problems where there are none, and of not saying anything good about the government, the pro-government party, and the democratic opposition that sits in Congress and the municipal council.

We could go on and on examining human rights, as well as those rights related to civic and political activities. We could go on talking about the political parties, the requirements they must meet to be legally recognized, and the restrictions imposed on them for the benefit of third parties—such as the right to use a particular party name and symbol—but these topics can wait because they are worn out, very commonplace in comparative legislation. Therefore, if there is good faith, there is no room for the complications and distortions in which the nonlegal opposition frequently gets entangled to justify its nonparticipation in legal political activities and to seek support abroad for their repugnant ambitions.

That nonlegal opposition, which usurps the name of legally recognized and participant parties, is made up of splinter groups from those parties, as the result of internal struggles. This, however, does not give them the right to try to displace the legally recognized parties, or to try to confuse public opinion by adding some qualifier to the registered names of those legally recognized parties. And thus we could continue bringing up topics for discussion, to prove that the real situation in Paraguay is quite different from that depicted by the detractors of the government.

Liberal Party President, Officials Elected

PY2609161588 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 26 Sep 88 pp 10, 11

[Excerpts] Yesterday Joaquin Atilio Burgos was reelected as Liberal Party [PL] president for the 1988-91 term by some 500 who attended the party meeting held at the Espana movie theater. The PL meeting was carried out in complete normalcy. Strong security measures were implemented, and the area near Eusebio Ayala Avenue, where the theater is located, was closed to traffic. [passage omitted]

The following is the list of members of the "18 de Octubre" movement who were elected yesterday: Joaquin Atilio Burgos, president; Tadeo Centurion Sostoa, first vice president; Augusto Caceres Carissimo, second vice president; Carlos Ferreira Ibarra, general secretary; Antonio Ocampos Carvallo, secretary; Blas Victor Aquino, party organizations secretary; Obdulio Lopez, press secretary; Victor Figueredo, public relations secretary; Justo Dionicio Balbuena, social affairs secretary; and Valeriano Mancuello, treasurer.

The following were elected as members of the board: Emerenciano Cabello, Ricardo Aguiar, Edgar Benitez Fernandez, Salvador Garozzo Simon, Wilfrido Benitez, Guido Alex Ferreira, Pablo Figueredo Ruiz, Raul A. Martinez, Isidro Gonzalez Doldan, Nazario Espinola, Carlos Augusto Ferreira, Filemon Samudio, Romildo Martinez, Rufino Aquino, Eduardo Escurra, Hipolito Miranda, Hernan Ibarra, Gregorio Martinez, Eusebio Amarilla, and Hugo Castro. The convention also appointed 15 alternate members.

Peru

Foreign Minister Addresses UN on Debt 'Crisis'

PY2809035988 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Speech by Foreign Minister Luis Gonzales Posada at 43d session of the UN General Assembly; date not given—recorded]

[Text] We Latin Americans owe $420 billion, which represents 45 percent of the region's GDP and the

payment of which amounts to nearly 40 percent of the region's income from exports.

If in 1982, when the crisis began, the regional debt was equal to 2.7 times the value of its exports, it is now equal to 3.5 times, and growing.

What can be done in the face of this hard reality? What can be done to allow Latin America to overcome a crisis that threatens to become chronic?

First of all, Mr President, it is imperative to become fully aware of the magnitude of the problem. We Latin Americans must make a commitment to unite—not only in words, or by repeatedly denouncing our problems—to make joint efforts to draft strategies that will allow us to renegotiate the foreign debt in acceptable and realistic conditions. We must make the creditors understand that the debt cannot be repaid under the terms and conditions originally contracted.

Second, we believe the time has come for Latin American countries to definitely integrate. Integration can no longer be a mere plan or a long-term objective. It is an imperious need of the future, an urgent need, an essential option to modernize our productive structure. We must obtain a larger market with better conditions of competitiveness for our exports. Such conditions must allow us to attract investments and to obtain financing within realistic terms and without detriment to our sovereign decisions.

Mr President, those of us who demand the democratization of international relations and who struggle for a process of peace, detente, and nonviolence are doing so in the name of the feeling of our people who demand a better standard of living and social justice. We are doing so because Peru believes firmly and persistently in democracy, in civil liberties, and in the state of law as the firm and main principles of our national life.

A democratic Peru greets all the peoples from this forum of hope. Peru reiterates its faith in the United Nations, and it is confident that the results of this assembly respond to the aspirations of those who have faith in human fraternity and in the destiny of solidarity among all of us who share this yet divided and troubled world. The poor of the world observe us with anguish and hope, and those who want peace and humanism await our decisions. Gentlemen, let us simply not disappoint them. Thank you.

Economy Minister Meets With IMF Authorities

PY2809193988 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Today, Economy Minister Abel Salinas met with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus within the framework of his regular contacts with IMF governors meeting for the annual assembly of the IMF and World Bank in Berlin.

The day before, Abel Salinas talked for more than 50 minutes with Shahid Husain, World Bank vice president responsible for Latin American and Caribbean affairs. The World Bank official praised the economic program implemented by the government to fight inflation.

On Dialogue With Creditors

PY2909141488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2326 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Berlin, 28 Sep (EFE)—The Peruvian Government will firmly maintain its independent economic policy, but it will open dialogue with its creditors of the IMF and the World Bank, which have declared Peru "ineligible."

These remarks were made here today by Peruvian Economy Minister Abel Salinas after he met with IMF Director Michel Camdessus. This has been the first high-level Peruvian-IMF meeting since a problem broke out between them in 1985.

According to official figures, Peru owes the IMF and the World Bank $1.074 billion.

Salinas said: "We all agree that an independent position does not preclude dialogue. Thus, I want to state that President Alan Garcia and his government will maintain their resolve to build a more just society through a nationalist, democratic, popular policy."

In 1985, the Peruvian Government decided to limit payment of its foreign debt to 10 percent of its export revenues.

The IMF and the World Bank will send delegations to Lima in October to learn about the new Peruvian economic measures. Discussions will be based on the 1988-90 economic and financial program, which is designed to reinforce the social objectives sought since 1985.

Salinas said there is a consensus regarding the Peruvian program, and its objectives can become a basis for agreements, although he explained that "it is not appropriate to talk about deadlines and quantities."

He has confirmed that the Andean Fund has granted a $50-million credit that will be given to Peru in 15 days, completing a loan totaling $300 million.

Salinas stated that at the meeting with Camdessus, they discussed the delay in payments to the IMF of $700 million. Camdessus suggested maintaining close contact with the new IMF adviser exclusively in charge of the problems of "ineligible" nations.

In a news conference, Salinas stated that the position adopted by Peru and the critical situation of indebted countries require strong economic adjustment programs with heavy political and social repercussions.

The minister stated: "We greet this progress. For our part, we are willing to join the process of rapprochement that can mean the intensification of Peru's relationship with the international financial community."

Salinas defended the principle of national independence in preparing the domestic policies of nations. He added that Camdessus has admitted this national right in Berlin.

According to Camdessus, the IMF considers the delay in payments by the eight countries considered "ineligible" to be a very serious problem. A ninth country is about to do the same, and four more are on the brink of delaying payments totaling $2 billion.

Shining Path Combines Offensive, Union Movement
PY2809215988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1154 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Lima, 28 Sep (EFE)—The Maoist Shining Path organization has, for the first time in its history, combined its armed offensive in Peru with a union movement in the country.

Police have reported that 18 people, presumed members of the Movement of Class-Oriented Workers [Movimiento de Obreros y Trabajadores Clasistas] (MOTC), were detained yesterday. The MOTC, considered to be the union branch of the Shining Path, is blamed for calling workers to a strike.

During the past 7 days several attacks with explosives and clashes between military forces and the Shining Path have taken place in Peru, in addition to the murders of a ruling party governor and a Civil Guard agent.

The incidents have taken place on the central highway, the main route between Lima and the country's interior, a "Shining Path" zone of influence.

The Shining Path seeks to publicly discredit the communist labor organization, the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP), which is the largest organization in the country. It criticizes the CGTP for its "passive attitude" toward the current economic and social situation in the country.

The "Shining Path" offensive precedes two key dates: "the prisoners of war day," instituted by this Maoist organization to commemorate the death of 30 prisoners accused of terrorism on 4 October 1986, and the 60th anniversary of the foundaton of the first communist party of Peru, which the Shining Path regards as legitimate.

This offensive also coincides with a congressional commission's report on the 8 years of armed violence in Peru, which has caused the death of some 12,000 people and losses amounting to $10 billion, equivalent to two-thirds of the Peruvian foreign debt.

Investigative Police Operation Results Reported
PY2809145188 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Report by Orlando Huapaya from the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP) press office]

[Text] Good morning. This is the PIP report. When he assumed the post of PIP director, Lieutenant General Fernando Reyes Roca issued specific instructions that crime was to be resolutely and persistently fought using strategic plans for detecting, capturing, and identifying criminals, drug traffickers, smugglers, and clandestine prostitutes. This culminated with the "Rafaga-88" operation intended to render this essential service to the people.

Through its 33 district stations the PIP has on 108 occasions carried out the "Rafaga-88" operation, over a 9-month period. The result of this effort is the arrest of 13,242 people, among whom were 1,250 people wanted by the courts, the arrest of 277 small-time cocaine paste dealers—who were handed over to the courts—and the arrest of 233 clandestine prostitutes and 322 homosexuals, who underwent the corresponding test for AIDS under the terms of an accord reached with the Guillermo Almenara Hospital. The PIP has remanded 3,476 people to the Attorney General's Office.

The detainees charged with smuggling, terrorism, and drug trafficking were placed at the disposal of the specialized PIP units while a more comprehensive investigation was conducted. Some 30 detainees were transferred to the Antiterrorist Directorate, 26 undesirable foreigners were transferred to the State Security Directorate, 97 smugglers to the Fiscal Police, and 516 drug traffickers to the Antidrug Subdirectorate.

During the enforcement of the "Rafaga-88" operation by the three divisions of the criminal police, the Department of Special Licenses, the Department of Fraud, and the Department of Crimes against Life, Body, and Health, charges were leveled against 540 people in connection with several crimes. Some 33 criminal gangs were dismantled and 47 revolvers, 16 pistols, 8 shotguns, 2 rifles, and 14 grenades, among other arms, were seized during the 9-month period.

During each of its actions the PIP officials respected human rights, as specified by the Constitution. The PIP requests the people's cooperation in order to continue with the fight against crime, in order to continue protecting public and private property and the security of the people.

Venezuela

Lusinchi at UN Urges Development Cooperation

PA2709222388 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0015 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Speech by President Jaime Lusinchi at the 43d session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 26 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In a world like ours today, our security and the security of regional countries are threatened from abroad. Therefore, it is time we report it. There is no place more appropriate than this organization, in which all the people of the world are represented.

Our basic rights as nations and as people, as communities and as individuals, are being questioned today. In no other way can we explain the lack of definite solutions to problems such as the foreign debt, which are strangling our countries and depriving us of the right to a stable future.

The foreign debt problem is undermining the economic and social development of a large number of countries in the world today. It is essential that we solve this problem in order to achieve fairer and more humane social development. We must begin to deal with the problem by recognizing that we can only solve it permanently when we face its true causes and when we admit to the failure of the strategies followed to date.

Among the fundamental causes of the foreign debt crisis, we have, first, the serious mistakes commited by bankers and creditors, who have disregarded the basic principles governing private credit activity and who have neglected to perform their duties effectively.

Second, there is another important factor. The governments and financial institution authorities of some of the countries where creditor banks are based, in order to defend the value of their currency and to fight domestic inflation, without taking into consideration the harmful effects their measures have on debtor countries, decided to increase interest rates to levels that far exceed average inflation rates. As a result, some loans acquired at interest rates commensurate with inflation rates must now be paid off with interest that is almost unpayable, because no economic activity can generate enough money to cover this imbalance, which is the result of a political decision of the developed countries' governments.

The logic of international financial capitalism is unethical and immoral. An economic system cannot operate indefinitely under such procedures, and it is unreasonable to expect that our people should be subjected to profit-oriented organizations and that nations, describing themselves as allies and friends, should not only try to justify but to impose this logic.

We have seen how as a result of the plans that have been presented to date—with repeated refinancing of the debt—readjustment policies in debtor nations and protectionist policies in creditor nations have been implemented, how the IMF, the World Bank, and regional development banks have intervened. One international conference after another has taken place, and specific plans drafted by developed nations have been implemented—all this without any practical results. The truth is that both for the countries that have paid and for those that have not, the situation is intolerable. The foreign debt will never be paid off with more debts. Traditional mechanisms are worn out, and the standard sequence of events looks like an ugly, harmful merry-go-round.

Where are we headed on this road? Let us recall that there are boundaries that cannot be crossed with impunity. In this case, the boundaries go beyond the concept of security, to issues concerning the right to development and social equality, which we will never tire of affirming. The dramatic truth is that social problems worsen and no more adjustments remain to be made. The net flight of capital from debtor to creditor countries continues. Countries continue to pay off their debts and, with very few exceptions—Venezuela has been one of them up to now—debts continue to increase.

Debtor countries have been paying interest rates upon interest rates while the debt dilemma worsened. The policy of trying to buy time, of waiting for a financial miracle that would allow countries to service the debt under the current terms, is over. We must be realistic and respond accordingly and promptly.

We must remember the crisis of the 1930's, when more than half the member countries of the League of Nations declared a debt moratorium. We must also remember that at that time part of the problem was the fact the world did not respond quickly enough.

It is, therefore, our duty to seek negotiated solutions leading to international agreements in which the debtor countries are granted reasonable and realistic terms for the payment of their debts, payment deadlines, and interest rates. This would allow the debtor countries to pay the debt and develop their economies at the same time.

There is no other solution. We cannot deceive ourselves. If we cannot create a multilateral mechanism to attain these conditions, we will be witness to an economic and social disaster that will affect both developed and developing countries.

One cannot be wealthy for a long time if that wealth is based on the ruin of others, much less if one lives in the current interdependent world. University professor and economist Carlos Diaz Aljandro said that to blame victims is a tempting way to evade responsibilities, especially when the victims are far from being virtuous.

We have reiterated that the foreign debt is a common responsibility and that for that reason the search for ways to overcome it must necessarily lead to a joint, rational, and just resolution agreed upon by creditors and debtors.

The developing countries are undoubtedly the victims. It is also true that we are not virtuous victims. The sins were not committed by some but by everybody. For that reason, we cannot agree to be the only ones to do the penance.

We are not only protecting our people's fate. We are convinced that future risks will also affect the countries that now make the big decisions. This is the message I bring on behalf of the Venezuelan people to this forum, which should embody all of humanity and become its conscience.

A few days ago, during a regional meeting on poverty, Latin American representatives confirmed that 61 million Latin Americans are so poor that—I quote—they do not even have enough to eat.

Keeping in mind this reality—and one can easily find worse situations in other developing regions—one must wonder what rights or what obligations could be more important than man's basic rights. One could, of course, say that each government must try to solve its own problems and that responsibilities are not transferable. That is true, but only when those responsibilities belong exclusively to each government.

That, however, is not the case. The existing interdependence of economies is a reality that, instead of helping us progress, seems to be leading us backward.

Is that a collective responsibility or not? A recent assessment of the current Latin American economic situation presented by the executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America noted that because of the region's need for major economic adjustments, which makes a balance in the foreign accounts category a priority, we are perhaps in a position to overcome the current stagnation and to recover price stability. To do this, it is essential to establish limits and to stop the transfer of resources to which our economies have been subjected. In our opinion, to recover our growth rate, we must approach and handle the debt problem in a radically different way.

Venezuela—I say this on behalf of Venezuela with full moral and political authority—believes the efforts we have been making are more than enough. For the welfare of our future society, we cannot continue as we have in the past. We have reached the point where economic development and servicing of the foreign debt are incompatible. That contradiction cannot be evaded indefinitely. [passage omitted]

Like most nations in the region, we have the possibility of overcoming the crisis. Therefore, we must not let ourselves be carried away by the routine and must take advantage of this transition. In order to do this, we need the full understanding of the international community. We particularly need understanding from the developed countries. We should not think, however, that the [developed nations'] efforts to coordinate economic policies will, in and of themselves, be efforts we would consider suitable for the circumstances that exist in the rest of the world. Nor can we think that our problems will be solved through those efforts.

We welcome the apparent clear approach during the Toronto summit regarding the realities developing nations are experiencing; however, we believe we can reserve to ourselves—in view of the lack of a constructive dialogue and immediate operational measures—the right to search for the necessary alternatives. A group of Latin American countries has been working on this issue. The Acapulco commitment for peace, development, and democracy, which we eight Latin American presidents signed last year, is the expression of our mutual concerns and our goals. We have imposed upon ourselves our own tasks within the three sectors encompassed in our commitment, which we intend to continue, and we will intensify our efforts. Soon we will meet again in Uruguay to improve our ideas and to examine the receptiveness to and understanding of our proposals. [passage omitted]

The economic conflict remains unsolved and continues to worsen. The imbalances in the world economy will lead us to disaster if the main countries do not fulfill their duties with a sense of responsibility toward the international community. Perhaps this may be the time for the [UN] secretary general to work toward setting up a dialogue that will provide the international community with a means to begin solving the unsolved problems, among which the foreign debt will have a prominent place.

Indeed, we cannot continue with the parallel monologues in which the developed and developing countries have been engaged in this organization. It might do us good to move away from our traditional actions and bring the topic to the highest political forums, through the secretary general, and to agree jointly to revive the philosophy and implementation of the concept of cooperation for development.

It has been said that Latin America is being absorbed by the drug economy. Radical measures have been demanded against the cultivation of illegal drugs. More emphasis is being placed on attempts to make relations between countries contingent upon the eradication of drug activity. Venezuela is an authority in the fight against drugs. We are determined to act in all areas. We proved this determination in 1984, when, in this assembly, we proposed the plan on the convention against drug consumption and drug trafficking. That plan was unanimously approved.

However, we have noted that no one has taken the trouble to point to and act against an economic system that permanently feeds on and profits from this activity. This system stimulates the creation of economic powers and consolidates them. In practice, it serves as a financial agent for this activity. It would be interesting for the organization to reveal the possible links between some members of the international financial world and the drug economy.

We could also explore the economy of toxic waste traffic. This activity is taking on special characteristics with the attempts to transfer the waste of a consumption-based and predatory society—imposed on us as a model—to the world's ecological reserves, chiefly the territories of the developing countries. This activity fosters corruption to expedite this unlawful and repulsive commerce. [passage omitted]

In this constant struggle to defend the most basic rights of man and state, we have always been able to count on the support of the United Nations. The United Nations is not only the appropriate forum to express our displeasure, but also, and most important, a forum where joint solutions can be found, resources channeled, and suitable mechanisms created.

Nation To Insist on Fulfillment of OPEC Pacts

PA2209220588 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Venezuela will insist at all OPEC meetings on the fulfillment of the organization's agreements. Julio Cesar Gil, Venezuelan energy and mines minister, stressed that discipline should always prevail. Gil described the meeting currently under way in Canada and the one scheduled to take place in Washington as important meetings because they will lead to an examination of the energy situation. He said that overproduction is the factor that contributes the most to increased crude and by-product prices.

[Begin Gil recording] [Words indistinct] commitments must be fulfilled and excessive production reduced. This is a decision all the countries should jointly adopt and fulfill because any unilateral action in this area would be counterproductive for all involved. [end recording]